



Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

**PRESS RELEASE
PRESS PACK**

For Immediate Release

**Contact Information: Mark P. Mondanaro, Superintendent of Schools
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7/17/14

**Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District Releases
Important District Reorganization Information**

Eight cases of student transition accommodations being made

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District is following up to its April 30, 2014 reorganization district communication today. The school district has identified eight (8) separate student transition cases. These cases all relate to some students from the former Jefferson Elementary School, the schools that are scheduled to close - Kenmore Middle School, Roosevelt Elementary School, and Hamilton Elementary School, as well as some Kenmore West students who would have changed schools before graduation.

Superintendent of Schools, Mark P. Mondanaro indicated, “These student transition accommodations are being made for special circumstances. Some of these were brought to our attention during the public forums and others we have come to realize.” Households affected in these options or placement cases are being notified directly through U.S. Mail. The eight cases have been posted on the school district’s homepage under “District Reorganization Information.” The information indicates when these direct household communications are being mailed. The updated website link is here: www.kenton.k12.ny.us

Additionally, the school locators have been re-launched today at the district and building homepages. New September 2016 attendance zone maps have also been created and posted at the district homepage.

The school district is transitioning to newly organized grade level schools effective September 2016 as Kenmore Middle School, Roosevelt Elementary School, and Hamilton Elementary School close that same year:

<u>School Type/Number</u>	<u>Grade Levels</u>
Elementary Schools (5)	K-4
Middle Schools (2)	5-7
High Schools (2)	8-12



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The school district's projected capacity usage is 66% for the upcoming school year and is projected to be 80% after the reorganization starts in 2016.

The reorganization is projected to save 4.9 million dollars during year one and a total initial five year combined non-compounded annual savings of 27 million dollars.

High schools will start earlier to facilitate better transportation savings while allowing older siblings to be home when elementary students leave school. Some transportation expenses will increase but will be reimbursed by state aid at approximately 75%.

A related "CORE" program has identified the selling and reuse of existing and former schools as they become available, and the "Big Picture" student program and various district employees will move to Kenmore Middle School. The former Jefferson Elementary School is about to be marketed as a part of the "CORE" program.

Plans are being advanced to facilitate the approaching school closings. The Student Services Department has been trained on the transition steps and principals have started the transition activities. The 2016 reorganization will also establish a 100% school feeder pattern for all district students, whereby Holmes, Hoover, and Lindbergh Elementary schools all feed Hoover Middle School and Kenmore West High School and only Edison and Franklin Elementary schools feed Franklin Middle School and Kenmore East High School. Therefore, all students from neighborhoods will travel together through their entire school experience. Superintendent Mondanaro further indicated, "I want to thank the many school district personnel who have helped launch this important reorganization transition plan. I also want to thank the Board of Education for supporting this important project and all the staff and community members for their input over the past two years. While being only one component needing addressing regarding true district and student program sustainability, many people deserve a lot of credit for realizing that running our school district under two-thirds capacity was clearly contributing to those sustainability issues."

END OF RELEASE



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